

## Resource Needs for the Future

All of the needs that generated the Conservation Title of the 1996 Farm Bill are still critical to Maine. Particularly critical are:

- Assisting agricultural producers meet their responsibility to protect water quality in a cost-effective manner. Maine livestock producers' need for Nutrient Management and Manure Management is a very significant workload.
- Assisting potato and blueberry producers with Irrigation Water Management
- Assisting producers located in the eight watersheds in Maine that the Atlantic Salmon has been listed meet their responsibilities.
- Maine is losing small and mid-sized farms at an alarming rate. In the last 10 years (1987-1997) 459 farms were lost.
- Fisheries and wildlife habitat restoration.

Present USDA programs help a great deal but will not address the entire need. Demand and documented need for present programs outstrips available funds 3:1. Most programs are delivered to the landowners through the Conservation Operations account, commonly referred to as "Conservation Technical Assistance." To fully address the workload would require an increase of \$4 million in Maine's Conservation Technical Assistance budget. Cost-share alone will not halt further decline of the family farm.



In addition, this limitation in Conservation Technical Assistance funds severely limits NRCS' ability to deal with emerging resource issues facing Maine agriculture within the scope of NRCS authority but not directly tied to Farm Bill programs.

The State Technical Committee has addressed, and will continue to address, the following programs/issues:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program: Targets Water Quality, Soil Erosion, Grazing Lands
- Conservation Reserve Program: Targets Soil Erosion, Water Quality
- Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative: Targets Soil Erosion, Water Quality, Grazing Lands
- Public Law-566: Targets Land Treatment, Soil Erosion, Water Quality
- Wetland Reserve Program: Targets Wetland Restoration
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program: Targets Wildlife Habitat Restoration
- Forestry Incentives Program: Targets Forest Health
- Farmland Protection Program: Targets Farmland Protection

To learn about NRCS in Maine,  
 visit our website at:  
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## 2000 Natural Resources Conservation Activities Report

Working hand-in-hand with Maine's farmers and landowners  
 to conserve natural resources on private lands

LAND • WATER • PEOPLE





Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

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Dear Maine Citizens:

I am proud to present this 2000 annual report of conservation activities, along with a look at future needs and opportunities to put conservation on the ground in Maine. The information contained in this report illustrates the strong commitment Maine land users have for conservation stewardship. It also shows that the Partnership's commitment to natural resource management provides an excellent foundation for a locally-led, voluntary, incentive-based conservation program delivery system.

NRCS works with Maine's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Maine Department of Agriculture, other federal and state conservation partners, and non-governmental organizations to conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources in Maine.

Demands from farmers and urban landowners for NRCS services continue to increase. NRCS Maine employees, working together with conservation partners at USDA Service Centers, responded to over 54,000 requests for information and conservation technical assistance last year. Citizens are becoming increasingly aware of the role they must play in using best management practices to protect and conserve our state's natural resources.

I would like to extend my appreciation to individual land users whom, as stewards of the working lands in Maine, have voluntarily invested their time and money to assure a productive and healthy future for the resources they manage. I am thankful to have this opportunity to work beside the conservation partnership members and other NRCS employees as we work to ensure that future generations of Mainers will have productive lands and waters and a quality environment. I look forward to working with you as we focus on an even better 2001 and beyond.

Sincerely,

**RUSSELL A. COLLETT**  
State Conservationist



*Russell A. Collett*  
State Conservationist

### NRCS Mission

*The mission of the  
Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service in Maine is  
to provide technical  
assistance to help  
people conserve,  
improve, and sustain  
our natural  
resources.*

### NRCS Vision

*An effective team  
providing leadership  
and expertise in the  
use and stewardship  
of Maine's natural  
resources.*

## A Conservation Story

In Fiscal Year 2000 Maine has received approximately \$1.4 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds and entered into over 160 contracts to do conservation work. One of the advantages of the EQIP Program is that conservation planning and assistance can be offered to many diverse customers, including limited resource farmers.

The following couple is committed to conserving natural resources and have realized that the EQIP program is a means to do just that along with making their farm operation more viable.

Onelio and Virginia Lopez have operated a 50-cow dairy farm in Smithfield since 1979. Onelio came to the United States from Cuba in 1965. With assistance from NRCS, Onelio and Virginia signed up for EQIP 2000 under the Dairy Belt of Maine priority area. They now have a contract to control barnyard runoff and construct a waste storage facility. Along with that, they will also be doing a nutrient management plan and pasture and hayland management programs. All of these practices will assist the Lopez family to meet new State environmental laws.

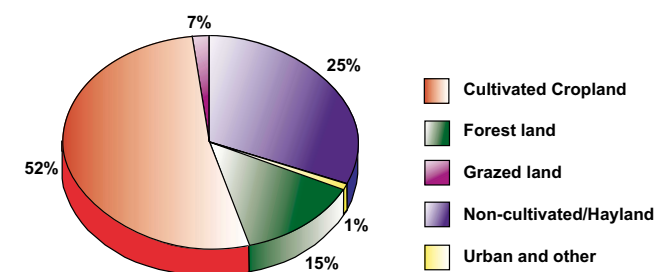


## Conservation Systems - Fiscal Year 2000

Systems that address all soil, water, air, plant and animal resource concerns are called Resource Management Systems (RMS). Other conservation systems applied at less than the RMS level usually focus on resolving a particular resource concern, i.e., an erosion problem, water quality problem, etc.

Acres Applied to Resource Management Systems	27,267
Acres Applied to Other Conservation Systems	4,618
Total Acres Applied	31,885

### Acres of Conservation Systems Applied by Land Use (Estimated)



### Acres of Conservation Treatment in Fiscal Year 2000 (Estimated)

Conservation Buffers	702
Treated with Erosion Control Measures	9,448
Irrigation Management Systems	1,782
Nutrient Management Applied	22,148
Pest Management Systems	11,548
Prescribed Grazing	2,762
Tree and Shrub Established	64
Tillage and Residue Management Systems	2,743
Wildlife Habitat Management	3,507
Wetlands Created or Restored	99

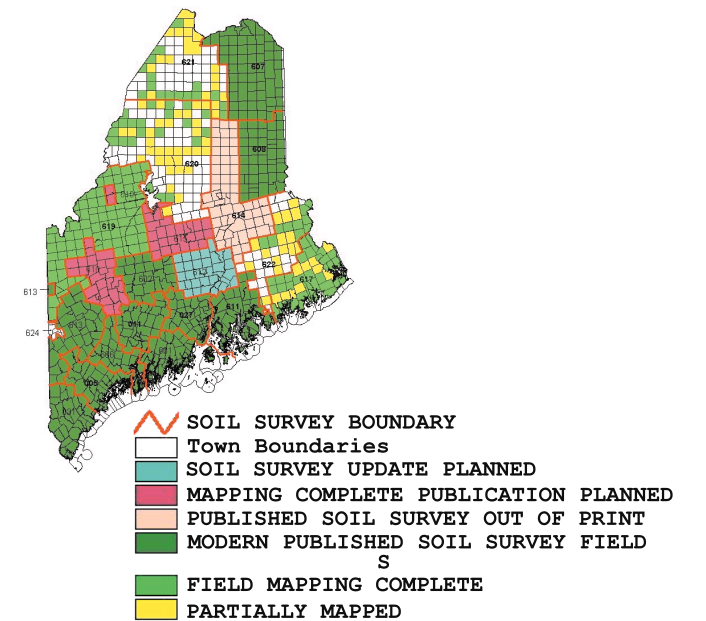
Estimated Number of Acres of Conservation Treatment	54,803
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## Completion of Maine Soil Survey Area 619

After 25 years of mapping, the soil survey of Area 619 was completed in September 2000. This area, stretching from the New Hampshire border to Moosehead Lake, covers over 2 million acres and includes the unorganized towns of western Maine in Oxford, Franklin and most of Somerset counties. This survey was done primarily with forestry interpretations and uses in mind. Over the length of this survey NRCS has worked with many of Maine's large landowners, who have supported this survey both financially and with help in developing forestry interpretations.

With the completion of this survey area, Maine is 80% surveyed. The areas that remain to be surveyed consist primarily of wooded, unorganized towns. Current workload also includes an update of southern Penobscot County.

### Status of Soil Surveys in Maine



## RC&D - Partners Making Communities Better Places

NRCS manages five Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas in Maine that help people in rural communities plan and carry out activities that increase the conservation of natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living. Led by an NRCS RC&D coordinator, local government and business partners work together to solve community problems. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance and sponsors obtain additional funding and services from a variety of other sources. Recent RC&D projects include: Agriculture Development, Agroforestry, Dry Hydrants, Timber Bridges, Boat Accesses, Fish Hatcheries, and the Fast Trac-Entrepreneurial Training Program.